

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Arms Factory of the Vah Machinery Works (Povazske strojarne) in Nizna nad Oravou	DATE DISTR.	21 March 1955
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The machine shops (strojirny) at Nizna nad Oravou, near Dolni Kubin (N 49-12, E 19-18), were set up between 1948 and 1952. The plant is under the jurisdiction of the Vah Machinery Works (Povazske strojarne) in Povazska Bystrica (N 49-07, E 18-27), and is one of the most important armament factories in eastern Slovakia. The factory is located 300 or 400 meters east of the town of Nizna, approximately 800 meters south-east of the Orava River. It can be reached by means of a road that branches off the Nizna-Tvrdozin (N 49-20, E 19-34) highway. The factory installations cover an area of approximately 300 by 400 meters. The area is surrounded by a metal net fence. 25X1
2. The machine tools employed at the factory are very modern and were supplied by the V.I. Lenin (Skoda) Works in Pilsen. They include, among other tools, 40 or 50 large lathes, milling machines, drills, and grinding machines. In Section III there are two new electric furnaces serviced by a transporter crane. During the spring of 1954, three automatic machines were installed for the manufacture of small arms ammunition; they employ the belt system. Electricity is supplied by the factory's own thermal power plant.
3. The labor force consists of about 3,000 workers and 250 white-collar employees. There are two daily shifts. The manager is Hrabuska, a Communist. The technical director is Eng. Stastny.
4. Monthly production amounts to about 500 tons of artillery shells of all calibers used by the Czechoslovak armed forces; about 600 tons of small arms ammunition for carbines, automatic and repeating rifles, pistols, and machine guns up to a caliber of 20 millimeters; and about 10,000 mines of all types. Most of the production is turned over to the Czechoslovak armed forces, and deliveries are made about five or six times each month for storage in Slovakia. The rest is shipped to the USSR and the other Satellite states.
5. Raw materials are supplied as follows: steel, in ingots, from various Slovak iron and steel mills; copper pipes for the grenade bodies and brass sheets for the caps from several Moravian plants; and explosives for the

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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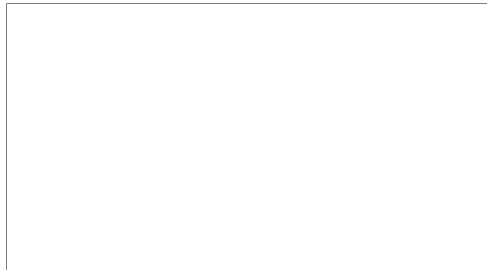
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detonator caps from Dubnica nad Vahom (N 48-58, E 18-11) and Semtin
(N 50-05, E 15-44).¹



Comment: The explosives factory in Semtin is presumably
the Synthesia National Enterprise plant. One of the two Skoda factories
in Dubnica is believed to produce explosives.

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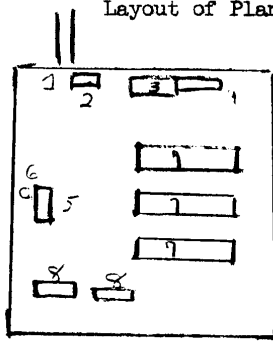
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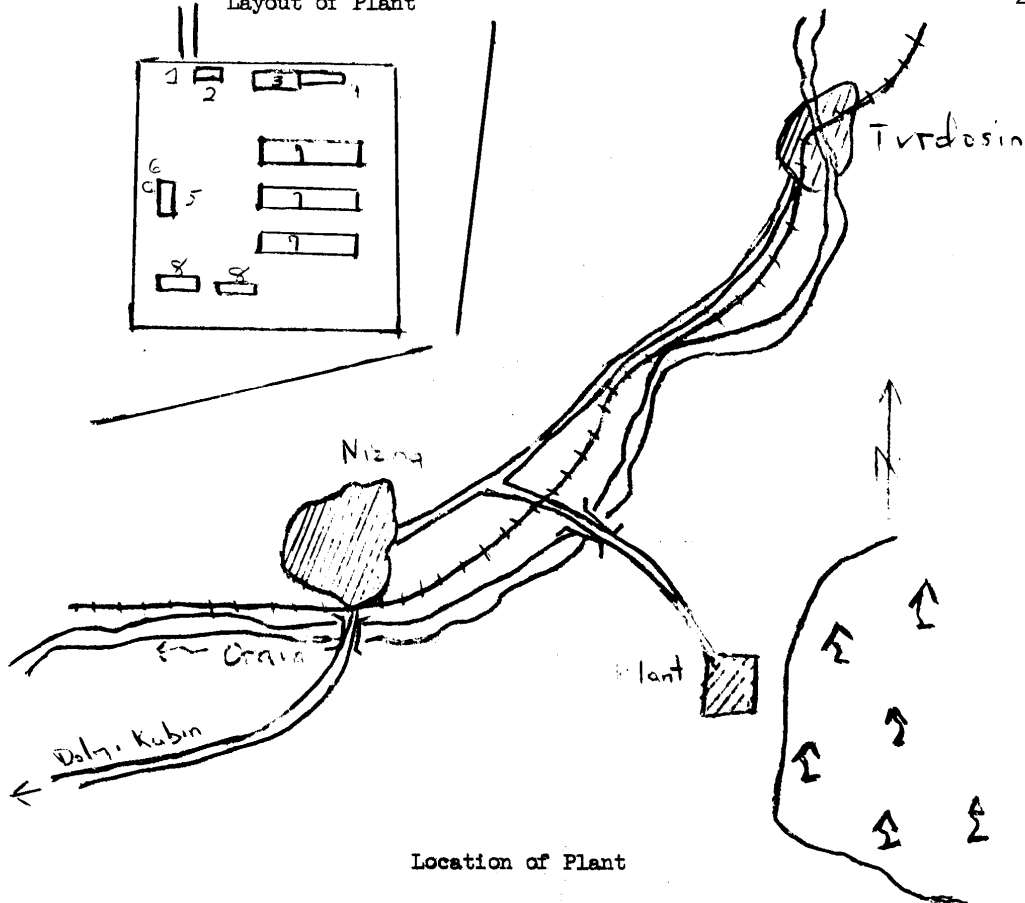


Annex

Layout of Plant



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Location of Plant

Legend to Sketch:

1. Entrance.
2. Gate control post and guardhouse, two-story building.
3. Two-story building, 30 by 40 meters; main office.
4. Garage.
5. Engine room.
6. Smokestack.
7. Three production buildings, each 20 by 80 meters, with glass roofs.
8. Two warehouses for raw materials and finished products.

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